

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE

OCTOBER 2021



Racing to the end of FY21

### Behind the Badge

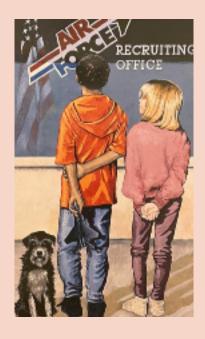
#### **ABOUT US**

Behind the Badge is a digitally published, monthly magazine catering to the recruiting community. It is an official publication of the Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs Office

#### **SUBMIT**

Behind the Badge welcomes submissions from all recruiters and those working in the field. Photos, videos, story ideas, commentaries, suggestions and criticisms are all welcome, although publication is not guaranteed.

To submit email us at: afrshqpa@us.af.mil and Randy.martin.7@us.af.mil



#### From AFRS/PA

Greetings from Headquarters, AFRS in San Antonio!

We are truly grateful that you're reading our team's flagship publication, "Behind The Badge." Each month we strive to deliver you news and information to inform and entertain.

This month we have photo contributions from the field (i.e. you and your peers) as well as a few stories including the ones we've written thanks to your tips.

When we were doing layout, we noticed a theme developing - motion, competition, and racing. How fitting for this time of year!

Regardless of where the Air Force or Space Force has assigned us, we are witnessing motion as a new and brilliant season arrives.

As humans, we enjoy competition. Sometimes that competition involves our careers. By the way, congratulations on a strong finish making goal in FY21 and a true Total Force win!

Sometimes we are spectators - again, entertaining but we yearn for more. Competition should be fun and it should also inspire. We think you will see that in this edition of the BTB.

What higher form of competition is there than racing? There are all kinds of races. Our nation was once even involved in a race to space. In this edition of the BTB you'll get a glimpse of motion, competition, and racing all associated with our noble profession - recruiting for the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force.

We hope you enjoy the BTB and please feel free to contact us at AFRSHQPA@us.af.mil with your suggestions and opinions.

AIM HIGH and SEMPER SUPRA!



#### On The Cover

The Air Force-sponsored No. 43 NASCAR prepares for a pit stop at Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol, Tennessee, Sept. 18, 2021. Driver Erik Jones spoke to Air Force and Space Force Delayed Entry Program members hours before the NASCAR Cup Series race. Story begins on Page 3.



# Space Force, Air Force Total Force recruiting makes goal for Fiscal 2021 By Master Sgt. Chance Babin, AFRS Public Affairs



Master Sgt. Daniel McIntyre, Air Force Recruiting Service first sergeant, rings the bell during an AFRS ceremony celebrating each of the Total Force recruiting partners, active duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard, making goal and reaching end strength for Fiscal 2021. The Space Force also made goal for the year. Ringing the bell is an AFRS tradition after annual recruiting numbers are achieved. This is the 21st year in a row the Air Force has rang the bell. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Chance Babin)

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – For the first time in five years, each of the Total Force recruiting partners have reached or exceeded their recruiting goal and each has achieved its end strength for Fiscal 2021.

"It's been another challenging year as we've continued to fight through the challenges of COVID but our recruiters have made every Air Force and Space Force goal. Our active duty Air Force recruiters made goal for the 21st straight year and our Guard and Reserve recruiters managed a Herculean lift, making goals even amidst record-high retention in the active Air Force, the source of many of our experienced and trained prior-service recruits," said Maj. Gen. Ed Thomas, Air Force Recruiting Service commander.

Thomas acknowledged that this is the first time in five years that all

three components, the Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard, have achieved their goal and end strength in the same year.

"Undoubtedly, the Total Force recruiting concept is a success," Thomas said. "We've still got work to do but we are aggressively moving the ball down the field and achieving historic levels of performance. The Guard and the Reserve, who rely on those coming off active duty to join their ranks, particularly have had to pedal exceptionally hard. I couldn't be more proud of our Total Force recruiters' resilience and determination to succeed during this challenging year."

Regular Air Force gained 27,299 personnel, consisting of 26,641 enlisted and 658 officers. The Air Force Reserve gained approximately 8,800 personnel, about 7,300 enlisted and 1,500 officers. The Air National Guard

gained 8,624 personnel, consisting of 7,869 enlisted and 755 officers. The U.S. Space Force recruiting team reached its goal of 404 future Guardians, with 395 enlisted and nine officers.

"Because of limited interaction with applicants, the recruiting environment was difficult in FY21 but ANG recruiters did an amazing job using inventive ways to attract talent," said Col. Shaunte Cooper, ANG Advisor to the AFRS commander. "It was the determination and out-of-the-box thinking of the ANG Recruiting and Retention NCOs in the field that help us exceed our goal."

Cooper added that for the last three years the Air National Guard has exceeded its officer and enlisted recruiting goals and the exceedingly high rate of retention of 92% helped the ANG surpass

(Continued on Page 6)

## Air Force recruits during Race Week at Bristol

By Randy Martin AFRS Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

– RANDOLPH, Texas - One of
NASCAR's most famous venues
became a focal point for Air
Force recruiting Sept 16 - 18,
2021. Recruiters based in North
Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and
Texas converged on Bristol Motor
Speedway, in Bristol, Tennessee,
with resources to engage and
inspire potential recruits.

It all started with a long haul.

Two black pickup trucks brought trailers to BMS bearing Air Force insignia with a mobile recruiting asset which looks like and is called "The Hangar" on Wednesday ahead of three nights of racing. One of the operators, up from San Antonio, said his crew spent three hours erecting the shining replica of an iconic air field maintenance bay.

With space for dozens to stand in the shade on a hot day, The Hangar features three interactive stations. It was one of several dozen attractions splayed out over asphalt lots beneath and surrounding BMS. The stations are designed to build awareness of Air Force career opportunities.

Ahead of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night's races thousands of young and older race fans passed by The Hangar. Contracted Air Force "brand ambassadors" registered wrist banded guests while recruiters worked the crowd to answer questions about careers and benefits of becoming an Airman.

Much like a theme park attraction guests formed lines anxious to sample an Air Force experience.

"Metrics from every race shows that 13 percent of foot traffic turns



Visitors look through virtual reality goggles during their visit to the Air Force Recruiting Service exhibit called "The Hangar" Sept. 17, 2021, at Bristol Motor Speedway, Bristol, Tennessee. The VR station inside The Hangar allows guests to experience an in-flight aerial refuel mission. Performance is scored by a computer in the timed scenario. Thousands of people visited BMS Sept. 16, 17, and 18 during three NASCAR races. Hundreds took turns at this and two other stations inside The Hangar.

to leads," said Master Sgt. Shawn Emmerling, a member of AFRS's National Events Marketing branch. Emmerling's team travels throughout the U.S. year-round helping local recruiters arrange events that feature national-level assets. "This is the engage aspect of what we do in AFRS."

Nearby a fabrication station allowed users to repair a hydraulic leak on an airplane. A tire change station tested physical skills with "players" loosening and tightening lug nuts on an actual tire. A third station allowed up to four people at a time to operate a computergenerated boom during a virtual reality in-flight refueling mission. For each event, performance was timed and scored for a fun and educational experience.

There was no letup on Saturday as the biggest of the three nighttime races neared.

A noncommissioned officer stepped in front of The Hangar.

With a few commands 14 new Airmen and one Guardian, all in blue T-shirts, formed two parallel lines facing into the setting sun where throngs of family members and curious passersby watched.

Lt. Col. Bryan Ewing, 332nd Recruiting Squadron commander, responsible for Air Force recruitment in the region, stepped to the front of the formation, raised his right hand and led the oath of enlistment while 15 new service men and women repeated each word in unison.

A local TV reporter captured their life-changing event as it unfolded while someone else in the crowd streamed the happening live for a social media audience.

"We wanted the biggest outreach possible," said Staff Sgt. Luke Motley, an enlisted accessions recruiter assigned to the 332nd Recruiting Squadron, Bristol, Tennessee. (Continued on Page 3)

#### Air Force recruits during Race Week (continued from Page 2)

Motley arranged for media coverage of the ceremony as well as the live stream. He also worked with the BMS events manager in order to build a mutually beneficial relationship between the track and the Air Force. "I asked them, what can we do for you?" beneficial relationship between the track and the Air Force. "I asked them, what can we do for you?" Motley said he hopes the cooperation will lead to an even better relationship with the community.

Following the ceremony, Erik Jones, driver of the Air Force-sponsored, No. 43 car dropped in to speak to the new enlistees. He thanked the men and women for their decision to serve in the Air Force and Space Force. Then he answered questions from fans.

He said that if he were in the Air Force that he would want to be a fighter pilot since driving a racecar is similar. Jones said that his favorite Air Force experience, since joining his team, has involved learning about the Tuskegee Airmen. The car he piloted to an 8th place finish later that night pays tribute to the famed African American pilots known as "Red Tails" who broke through racial barriers and helped secure an allied victory over Germany during World War II.

As the sun set, crowds packed BMS for its NASCAR Cup Series race. Thousands stood in honor of recently fallen service members and then joined a children's choir to sing the National Anthem.

"It's phenomenal," Ewing said. "You can't ask for a better location. They really show their appreciation."

As the sun disappeared over a hill that aimed higher, just over the horizon, a C-130 slowly approached the coliseum and then passed directly overhead. The crowd cheered and then engines roared to life.

AFRS has had a NASCAR partnership since 2000. In 2019, the partnership with Richard Petty Motorsports resulted in 716 million media impressions valued at nearly \$17 million, well above the investment.



(Left), Staff Sgt. Luke Motley, an enlisted accessions recruier in the 332nd Recruiting Squadron, Bristol, Tennessee gives an interview to a local TV reporter inside the Air Force The Hangar exhibit at Bristol Motor Speedway Sept 18, 2021. Motley led several initiatives to showcase the Air Force and Space Force during a 3-day NASCAR race week.



A race fan tests his strength on the pullup bar (left) and 15 Delayed Enlistment Program personnel (right) are sworn-in outside The Hangar, on Sept. 18, 2021 during race week in Bristol, Tennessee. The 15 DEPpers include one Space Force Guardian and 14 Airmen.



## AFRS NCOs reach new heights in leadership of AFSA

By AFRS Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas - Two new members of the Air Force Sergeants Association Board of Directors are Air Force recruiters.

This summer, Master Sgt.
Blake Manuel, 348th Recruiting
Squadron Officer Accessions
flight chief in Clearfield, Utah,
was elected as international vice
president, the second highest
position in the AFSA. One of
his recruiters, Master Sgt. James
Zwiebel, was just assigned
Division 6 president.

"Having two recruiters serving on the board of directors makes me proud, and I'm happy to represent our command across the globe," Manuel said. "I am continuing to expand the reach and impact that recruiters have across our 125 chapters, through networking and making them aware of how their unique skillsets can improve their local AFSA chapter. At this time we have five recruiters that are serving as chapter presidents or vice presidents, and I am hoping that recruiters influence and impact continues to expand and aid AFSA's mission of improving quality of life."

Manuel has been involved with AFSA since 2015 and eventually became chapter president at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma in 2017. Since being stationed at Hill AFB, Utah, in 2018, he progressed from a division trustee to Division 6 vice president, president, and then just recently was elected to international VP all in the span of two and a half years.

AFSA, headquartered in Suitland, Maryland, is governed by a 14-person board of directors which consists of an international president, vice president, seven



Master Sgt. James Zwiebel, of the 348th Recruiting Squadron officer accessions flight, receives the Air Force Sergeants Association's Award of Excellence at the at association's Professional Education and Development Symposium July 2021 in Orlando, Florida. Zwiebel was recently elected as AFSA's Division 6 President, and as such, is now a member of the AFSA Board of Directors. (Courtesy Photo)

division presidents, and trustees for uniformed services, family matters and retired and veteran's affairs, as well as a senior adviser and an executive director who serve as non-voting members. There are seven divisions and 125 chapters through the world with a membership strength of 75,000

"AFSA is an important organization because we are all about advocating for, and improving quality of life for our Airmen, Guardians, and their families through advocacy and education," Manuel said. "We do this at the local level through chapters at every base and also through the legislative process on Capitol Hill. Quality of life issues and benefits affect each and every member of the uniformed services and their families, so the reach and impact of our efforts is vast."

As the Division 6 president, Zwiebel directly leads 21 chapter presidents at Air Force and Space Force bases in six southwest U.S. states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah.

"I have been lucky enough to be a part of successful teams at each level of my AFSA experience with a heavy emphasis on 'lucky,'" Zwiebel said. "These teams have kept me motivated. They encouraged me and elected me to serve at the next level. As a chapter president I was able to serve 500, however, as a division president I am able to serve 10,000."

All members of the board of directors are volunteers, with the exception of the executive director and his staff in D.C. The division structure allows for leadership, development, and management of the 125 chapters.

"This is a huge responsibility for International Vice President Manuel and I," Zwiebel said. "We (Continued Page 3)

#### Leadership of AFSA

(Continued from Page 5)



Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass poses for a photo with Air Force Recruiting Service recruiters at the Air Force Sergeants Association Professional Education and Development Symposium July 2021 in Orlando, Florida. Two recruiters were recently elected to key positions in AFSA; Master Sgt. Blake Manuel is the international vice president and Master Sgt. James Zwiebel is the Division 6 president. Both recruiters are assigned to the 348th Recruiting Squadron officer accessions flight in Utah. (Courtesy photo)

have had great men and women in AFSA mentoring, coaching, sponsoring and investing in us. These selfless servants guided our motivation, encouraged our attitude, and pushed us toward opportunity. As recruiters we have skillsets that are valuable to any professional organization, go apply them to an organization that you believe in."

Zwiebel said he was inspired by former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Robert Gaylor who he remembers saying aptitude defines what you are able to do, motivation defines what you will do, attitude defines how well you will do it, and opportunity is when the door opens and they call your name.

"Having passionate members in our AFSA is first and foremost," said retired Chief Master Sgt. Kerry Wright, AFSA International President. "Having passionate Air Force recruiters as part of our association only makes us a stronger association due to their outreach, connections and diversity. Having Air Force recruiters in AFSA leadership positions provides our association with relevant, up-to-date, leaders that understand and advocate for quality of life issues that are important to our enlisted force and their families."

Manuel said AFSA was started by four noncommissioned officers in 1961, but throughout the 1980s and 1990s, a majority of the leadership were of an older, retired generation. Recently, the annual conventions have been filled with a majority of active-duty uniformed members.

"I recognized that the uniformed delegates at the annual convention wanted someone to represent them who was one of them, someone currently serving in the Air Force" Manuel said. "The last uniformed international president or international vice president was over 35 years ago. I hope my election to international VP is the start of a new wave of more uniformed members wanting to serve at the highest levels of leadership within the AFSA."

(Goal, Continued from Page 2)

its end strength goal of 108,100 Airmen assigned.

For the Air Force Reserve, this marked its 21st consecutive year of making goal, but fiscal 2021 was the first time in five years it made end strength.

"For the first time since 2016, the Air Force Reserve Command has made end strength," said Col. Eugene Smith, 367th Recruiting Group commander. "This allows us to meet or exceed Congressional end strength, which is crucial in the CAFR's (Chief of Air Force Reserve) mission for the Air Force Reserve and to support the combatant commanders throughout the world."

Reserve recruiters overcame unprecedented challenges this year to meet these milestones including COVID-19 and shortages of service members separating from active duty.

He added that with high retention rates from the active components, Reserve In-Service recruiters went the extra mile working extensively with those separating on the benefits of joining the Air Force Reserve.

"The 2021 Recruiting Year was one of the toughest recruiting years ever on our Reserve recruiters," Smith said. "Still 'handcuffed' with social distancing, no access to large gatherings, and no entry into schools, all the while concerned for the recruiters' wellbeing, they charged on. They ensured they had the greatest personal protective measures in place and did the magic they do – went and got their goal."

Additionally, Air Force Special Warfare recruiting reached goal for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal career field for the first time in 10 years.





The 369th RCS's H Flight has worked to build new relations with community influencers and organizations in their area of responsibility. On Sept. 3, 2021, Tech. Sqt. Cristian Pauna from the 369th RCS along Shawnee Witt, co-founder and director of the Power of One Foundation, a community leading non-profit organization, organized and executed a volunteer event in which 35 DEP personnel from the 369 RCS had the opportunity to give back to the local community before beginning their Air Force journeys. The volunteers set up and organized booths, prepared and served food and beverages for more than 2,000 Orange County Soccer Club game spectators. Their efforts helped the Foundation raise \$1,800 which will be used to provide food and basic necessities for local families in need. The event generated more than \$80.000 in revenue for the local county's various sports teams. (Courtesv Photos)





The 311th RCS, partnered with Tech. Sgt. Peter Rivera of the USAF Thunderbirds Team, organized a swear-in ceremony where 27 total force DEP members were administered the oath by Thunderbird No. 12, Capt. Kaity Toner, on Sept. 4, 2021, at Burke Lakefront Airport. Family members and friends were able to come out and watch their loved ones take the oath of enlistment. This was a combined event for six recruiters and their DEP members. (Coutesy Photos)

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The 367th RCS hosted Maj. Gen. Ed Thomas and Chief Master Sgt. Antonio Goldstrom at the Air Academy High School during their trip to Colorado Sept. 16, 2021. The kadets were ecstatic about their speakers as Chief Goldstrom went back to his JROTC roots by spinning a drill rifle again for the 150 students in attendance. The 367th RCS, coordinated with all local Air Force components to bring out displays for the students following Thomas's presentation. (Courtesy Photos)





## 342nd, 345th, and 330th RCS Attend Southern Heritage Classic, visit HBCUs plus



Members of the 342nd, 345th, and 330th Recruiting Squadrons visited Memphis, Tennessee for the Southern Heritage Classic. During the trip, members visited Historically Black Colleges and Universities as well as the University of Memphis. (Courtesy Photos)









The 345th RCS put maximum efforts into coordinating with six different AOR/Units (from the: 330, 331, 332, 333, 342 & Det 1) to educate local high schools on the USAF/USSF with speakers covering: AF Inspire, OTS/Academy/ROTC commissioning, Active/Guard/Reserves and enlisting opportunities. USAF/USSF presence was demonstrated at the High School battle of the bands, the pre-game tailgating event teaming with Special Warfare and the TSU/JSU football games w/ a televised DEP swear executed by the AFGSC/CC. (Courtesy Photo)





345th RCS helped DEPpers volunteer and help support Afghan refugees throughout September at the International Institute of St. Louis. Technical Sergeant Elyse Stamey worked with the International Institute to facilitate a volunteer opportunity for three combined DEPs to support the USAF big picture mission happening at large. 15 DEPpers stepped forward to filter through/collect well over \$300,000 worth of donations to be properly stored in the warehouse for distribution to 3,000 Afghan Refugees relocating to the local area.(Courtesy Photos)

### **Portland Grand Prix**



In these three photos Tech Sgt. Erik Cardenas shows some of the activity at the Portland Grand Prix on Sept 12, 2021. Recruiter's from the 361st Recruiting Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, and representatives from the Virtual Reality experience ECHO (Enhanced Cognitive Human Ops). Recruiter attend special events to increase awareness to the general public of the unique opportunities the U.S. Air Force has to offer. (Middle) Conor Daly, driver of the Air Force sponsored No. 20 car competes with U.S. Air Force recruiters from the 361st Recruiting Squadron, Sept. 11, 2021, Portland, Oregon. Rapid Recon is a video game designed to test your ability to react through a series of visual to hand responses. (Lower Right) Brig. Gen. Donna M. Prigmore, Commander, Oregon Air National Guard interacts with guests during the Portland Grand Prix, Sept. 12, 2021, Portland, Oregon. Prigmore is responsible for mission readiness and operational effec tiveness of more than 2,400 military and civilian personnel assigned to the 142d Fighter Wing in Portland, Oregon.





# Recruiting Service 5/6



Are you up for the challenge?

RUN, JOG, WALK

Together, we can reach 275 miles!

POST A SCREEN
SHOT TO
FACEBOOK OR
USE THE "MAP
MY
RUN" MOBILE

According to Tech Sgt. Audrey Turner, the Recruiting Service 5/6 Council just hosted its 2nd Annual Patriot Run in remembrance of 9/11. All ranks were invited to participate, with the team goal of collectively running 275 miles in one day. Many individuals chose to run 9.11 miles, with two people even running 20 miles, each! All together, the 5/6 Council exceeded their team goal and ran a total of 414.22 miles!!! The 5/6 Council wanted to extend a huge Thank you to those who participated. "We were proud to see AFRS come together in remembrance of 9/11."



Above is the AFRS webpage. To get to the website go to: <a href="https://www.recruiting.af.mil">https://www.recruiting.af.mil</a>. The AFRS Public Affairs team is keeping the website current with relevant Air Force information.





Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne Bass (center) shows a "shaka" hand sign along with Tech Sgt. Frederick Hough and Tech Sgt. Mario Soriano. Hough and Soriano, both based in Aiea, volunteered for the Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 (PACS-21) held on Oahu, Hawaii. The tech sergeants assisted with the senior enlisted leader event held at the USS Missouri. The PACS-21 focused on strengthening partnerships, developing a mutual understanding of common issues and challenges, and regional security in the INDOPACOM Area Of Responsibility. Air Chiefs and Senior Enlisted Leaders from 14 other nations attended. The shaka is often used as a sign meaning "take it easy" and equal expressions meaning the same. (Courtesy Photo)

# 367th Recruiting Squadron





(Left) A member of the USAF Wings of Blue descends with the U.S. flag during the 2021 High Sky Wing Commemorative Air Force Air Show at Midland International Air & Space Port, Midland-Odessa, Texas, Sept. 11, 2021. (Above) Upon landing, the parachutist swears in more than 40 joint force Delayed Entry Program members. More than 10,000 people attended the 2-day airshow and saw a variety of aerial demonstrations and exhibits. (Courtesy Photos)

# Super Girl Pro Surfing



In these three pictures Tech Sgt. Erik Cardenas, 372nd Recruiting Group, shows the happenings at Super Girl Pro, a major surfing event in Oceanside, California Sept. 18-19. The U.S. Air Force is a partnered sponsor of the surfing competition, making a priority to inspire and empower girls and women of all ages. (Top) U.S. Air Force Aviation Mentor Capt. Kimberly Auton, assigned to the 8th Fighter Squadron, Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, interacted with a young guest. Auton tells her unique experience to women who want to pursue a career in aviation. (Middle) Maj. Lauren Olme, assigned to the 77th Weapons Squadron, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, talks about her experiences as an aviator in the U.S. Air Force with media at the beach. (Bottom) DEPpers are sworn in during Super Girl Pro at Oceanside, California.





# FY21 3rd Quarter Winners

ayetteville, North Carolina
ubbock, Texas
lew Windsor, New York
an Diego, California
lew Orleans, Louisiana
marillo, Texas
ing of Prussia, Pennsylvania
ing of Prussia, Pennsylvania
8:
ing of Prussia, Pennsylvania
haw AFB, South Carolina
,
Vright Patterson AFB, Ohio.
BSA-Randolph, Texas
Vright Patterson AFB, Ohio
fill AFB, Utah
lanscom AFB, Massachusetts
randview, Missouri
IcClellan, California
To Cromuni, Cumomu
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ule a le ariii li la





Members of the 311th RCS celebrated the promotion of Tech Sgt. Andrew Keeling with an adventurous day of white water rafting near Cranberry, Pennsylvania.(Courtesy Photo)

## 330th Recruiting Squadron





(Left) Air Force Special Warfare took to Indianapolis, Indiana, and San Diego, California, for the inaugural Motocross Sports Pro Racing Scouting Moto Combines. The two phases saw some of the top tier athletes in motocross come out for a full day of mentorship ending with a pair of 25-minute motos. Air Force Special Warfare was front and center as the presenter of the events. Tech Sgt. Jake Hall, TACP with the 353d SWTS, represented Air Force Special Warfare at Fox Raceway in Pala, California. (Right) Sept. 11, 2001 is a day that no American will ever forget. This year, the 330 RCS E-Flight, was the lead sponsor for the Bradley Smith Memorial 5K in Troy, Illinois, held on September 11. Sr. Airman Bradley Smith was a TACP that was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for his heroic actions in Afghanistan on Jan. 3, 2010. Local Air Force Special Warfare recruiter, TSgt Dalontie Joppy, along with flight chief, Master Sgt. Anthony Merx, and assistant flight chief, Tech Sgt. Blake Wrather, joined Tech Sgt. Joppy's DEPpers and around 650 participants for the memorial 5K. This raised about \$200k that will go toward scholarships for high school students in Illinois. (Courtesy Photo)







311th RCS, D Flight recruiters spread awareness and built a relationships within the Canfield, Ohio community, Sept. 10-12,by representing the Air Force at the Canfield Fair and Comicon. (Courtesy Photos)

# GO Inspire





As part of the Department of the Air Force's GO Inspire Program, Maj. Gen. Randall Reed, Commander, Third Air Force, and his wife Lynn, visited approximately 40 Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets at Howard University's Detachment 130 in Washington D.C. They discussed expectations of life in the Air Force and also hosted a question and answer panel. Howard University is 1 of 774 minority serving institutes the Chief of Staff of the Air Force's Rated Diversity Improvement Strategy has identified for senior leaders to visit by FY25 to recruit diverse and talented candidates. (U.S. Air Force photo by Maj Genieve White)





According to Tech Sgt. Ralph Hall Gonzalez, officer accessions recruiter, with the 318th RCS, 1st Lieutenant Summerpreet Bali is the first Sikh Public Health Officer in the United States Air Force. Since Bali was a kid he never lost sight of his dream of becoming a USAF officer. His dad was an executive magistrate in India. He took young Summerpreet to different bases and camps which sparked the inspiration to one day become part of something bigger than his childhood dreams. "Having a professional and knowledgeable recruiter is the first step in achieving your goal and I feel like one among the luckiest to have that opportunity been provided when I first attempted to reach out to the Air Force recruiting team," Bali said. It was then, when his journey to become a public health officer started. "My whole process went very smooth without any confusion or misinterpretation. Tech Sgt. Hall Gonzalez always guided me in the right direction, motivated me and has been a wonderful support during my whole time of the process." (Courtesy Photo)

# Congratulations on a true Total Force Win in FY21!



Happy FY22!